



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of Education &
Early Development

Division of Libraries, Archives & Museums
Alaska State Historical Records Advisory Board

<http://archives.state.ak.us/ashrab/ashrab.html>

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Alaska State Historical Records Advisory Board (ASHRAB) Membership

Dean Dawson, Coordinator
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Dennis Moser, Fairbanks
Bruce Parham, Anchorage
Toby Allen, Anchorage

Judith Bittner/Jo Antonson, Anchorage
Richard Valenti, Fairbanks
Zachary Jones, Juneau
LaRue Barnes, Cordova
Susan Means, Anchorage

March 7, 2014

The Honourable Tammie Wilson
Alaska State House of Representatives
Mail Stop 3100
Juneau AK 99801-1182

**RE: FY 2015 Capital Budget Request--State
Library, Archives, & Museum Facility Construction Funding (Reference #52483)**

Dear Representative Wilson:

Depending on your view from the Capitol, you can see the rising walls of the new State Library, Archives and Museum (SLAM) facility in Juneau.

As the ASHRAB Board, with a mission towards the collection and preservation of Alaska's historical records, we are writing to you with a sense of urgency with regard to the SLAM facility. This project is at a critical juncture in terms of funding. **The Governor designated \$15 million for the project, even though \$37.215 million is required to finish the project. If this final funding request is not met this year, the project will stop mid-construction.** Currently the State has a guaranteed maximum price on the project, but that will expire if full funding does not come forth this year. If this happens, the construction project will have to go out for bid again, and the cost will certainly rise. The State estimates that de-escalating and mothballing the construction project will cost over \$9 million. **As a result, the fiscally conservative move is to fully fund the project now. We respectfully request that an additional \$22.215 million to be included in the FY15 Capital Budget.**

Completion of the SLAM facility will improve government efficiency by uniting the entire Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums under one roof. As soon as the SLAM facility is completed and the division has relocated to the new building, a majority of the 7th and 8th floors of the State Office Building will be available for office space. This means that the State can re-

purpose this space to consolidate offices currently located in leased buildings, and save substantial rental expenditures.

The SLAM facility will be a state-of-the-art museum, library, and archive for showcasing and preserving the treasures entrusted to the State of Alaska. It is a modern structure that provides cutting-edge facilities for storing all of the materials that are fundamental to the identity of our state. The current Alaska State Museum and Archive buildings are in serious disrepair. While they have served their purpose well, they are no longer viable to house the priceless, historical treasures of our Alaska. We feel that it is critical for the preservation and safety of our state's treasures that the new SLAM facility is fully funded.

The new SLAM facility is not just a Juneau project. While the building is located in Juneau, it has programs for every Alaskan, in every community, throughout the State. The Alaska State Library, Archives and Museum are active caretakers of Alaska's cultural and intellectual treasures. Their activities support efforts of local entities, all across Alaska, which share the mission of historical artifact and document preservation. The completion of the SLAM facility will enhance the efforts of all.

For more information on Project SLAM, please visit and encourage your constituents to visit: <http://museums.alaska.gov/lam/slam.html>

Sincerely,

Toby Allen

Toby Allen, Chairman pro tem

With full concurrence and support by the following ASHRAB members:

Zachary Jones, Juneau
LaRue Barnes, Cordova
Susan Means, Anchorage
Dennis Moser, Fairbanks
Bruce Parham, Anchorage
Laura Samuelson, Nome
Rich Valenti, Fairbanks

The following members recuse themselves due to conflict:

Judy Bittner, State Historical Preservation Officer
Dean Dawson, State Archivist and ASHRAB Coordinator